(b) the details of the PALNA Scheme;

(c) what are the safeguards in this scheme;

(d) whether there is a grave danger that children will be abandoned by parents;

(e) whether experience of any other country been noted in formulating the PALNA Scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Government has proposed an 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme', which has various components, and 'Cradic Baby Scheme' or 'Palna' is one of them. The proposed Integrated Child Protection Scheme is under consideration for the 11th Five Year Plan.

(b) to (f) The Integrated Child Protection Scheme envisages setting up Cradle Baby Reception Centres in each district. These Cradle Baby Reception Centres will be linked to Cradle Points at Primary Health Care Centres, Hospitals/Nursing Homes, Swadhar Units, Short Stay Homes and in the office of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) to receive abandoned babies. The Cradle Baby Reception Centre shall function from the premises of State Adoption Agency (SAA) equipped with all basic facilities for infants. The primary objective of these Reception Centres shall be to rescue the girl child and look after her with due care and affection till she is given in adoption. Each State Adoption Agency (SAA) shall install one cradle at the doorstep to receive such babies.

Minimum standards for children of women prisoners

1479. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the apex court, in its judgement dated 13th December, 2006, issued directions and guidelines to ensure that certain minimum standards are observed for children of women prisoners; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Government of India is aware of the judgement dated 13.4.2006 delivered by the Supreme Court of India in the Writ Petition (c) No. 559 of 1994 [R.D. Upadhyay *vs.* State of Andhra Pradesh and Others] vide which the court has issued guidelines regarding facilities for children of women prisoners.

(b) The Ministry of Home affairs has requested the State Government/ UT Administrations for taking suitable action on the directions/guidelines.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing the following schemes:

(i) A Programme for Juvenile Justice;

(ii) An Integrated Programme for Street Children;

(iii) Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection; and

(iv) Scheme of Assistance of Homes for Infant and Young Children (Shishu Greh) to Promotion In-country Adoption.

The Ministry regularly pursues with the State Governments for effective implementation of these scheme.

Child marriages in the country

1480. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the child marriages are still going on in some parts of the country in spite of the existence of Child Marriages Prevention Act; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to initiate in order to curb this social evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. As per information received from the National Crime Record Bureau, the problem of child marriage still exists in some parts of the country.

(b) In order to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition